

REMARKS

Applicants are in receipt of the Office Action dated 2/24/03 and have the following comments.

Applicants thank the Examiner for withdrawing all previously outstanding claim rejections.

The Examiner has stated that Applicants have failed to comply with 37 CFR 1.821-1.825 because, while the amino acid sequence His-Glu-X-X-His was included within the sequence listing, the included sequences HELIH, HELNH and HELTH were not. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration for the following reason.

While the sequence rules require a listing of all nucleotide or amino acid sequences contained within an application, the MPEP explains the rules more fully. MPEP Section 2422.03 states “[i]t is generally acceptable to present a single, general sequence in accordance with the sequence rules and to discuss and/or claim variants of that general sequence without presenting each variant as a separate sequence in the ‘Sequence Listing’”.

This is exactly the case here. Applicants have listed a single general sequence (His-Glu-X-X-His), and have discussed variants of this sequence (HELIH, HELNH and HELTH) within the text. The MPEP indicates that there is no requirement to list the latter three sequences in the sequence listing. For this reason, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner reconsider and withdrawn the objection.

Objection to Claim 1

The Examiner has objected to claim 1 and its dependent claims due to a typographical error. Applicants herein have amended claim 1 to remove the typographical error. The claims are therefore respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance.

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If any fee is due in connection with this Reply, kindly use our Deposit Account 01-0885
for the payment of extension or other fees due herewith.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 5/21/03

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